



TEXAS TASK FORCE ON INDIGENT DEFENSE

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For Immediate Release
August 18, 2004

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TASK FORCE ON INDIGENT DEFENSE TO PRESENT REPORT ON THE DALLAS COUNTY INDIGENT DEFENSE SYSTEM AND PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE

AUSTIN – The Texas Task Force on Indigent Defense is issuing a report of Dallas's indigent defense system at 10:30 a.m. Friday, August 20, in the Central Jury Room on the 1st floor of the Frank Crowley Courts Building. The report was prepared by The Spangenberg Group, a nationally renowned indigent-defense consulting firm, and was commissioned by the Task Force.

Robert L. Spangenberg, president of the firm, will present the key findings in the report. "We found that the Dallas County indigent defense system has the potential to become one of the model systems in the state," Spangenberg said, "both from a quality of representation and a cost effectiveness perspective."

The report is based on a week-long series of interviews with key figures in the Dallas County criminal-justice system, including judges, court staff, county officials, public defenders and private defense lawyers. The report makes detailed findings and recommendations to improve the delivery of indigent-defense services in Dallas County.

"This report points out some unique and creative ways to improve upon the indigent defense system here in Dallas County," said Cliff Stricklin, Presiding Judge of the Criminal District Courts. "And any improvement in the indigent defense system is good for the criminal justice system and our community as a whole."

Jeanette Drescher Green, Chief Public Defender, said: "The Dallas County Public Defender's Office has been dedicated to providing quality representation to indigent clients for over 20 years. We are proud of our growth and accomplishments and believe that The Spangenberg Group's report will provide additional insight and direction towards our continuous goal of improving and strengthening our office."

Spangenberg will be joined at the presentation by Jim Bethke and Wesley Shackelford, Task Force Director and Special Counsel. They will be available to answer questions after the presentation.

The report will be available at the presentation and on the Task Force's web site,
<http://www.courts.state.tx.us/tfid>.

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